MILDENHALL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the Report of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the year ended 31st December, 1971

Mildenhall Rural District Council

Chairmen of the Council

Councillor T.W. Taylor - January to May 1971

Councillor B.A.M. Lingwood - May to December 1971

Chairmen of the Public Health Committee

Councillor T.S. Baldwin - January to May 1971

Councillor T.A. Hagger - June to December 1971

Medical Officer of Health (Acting)

Dr. D.A. McCracken, C.St.J., M.D., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L. McCowey, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

J.P. Lynch, M.A.P.H.I.

Telephone: Mildenhall 712203
Bury St. Edmunds 63141

Council Offices,
Mildenhall,
Bury St. Edmunds.

30th May 1972

To the Chairman and Councillors of
the Rural District of Mildenhall

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1971 ending on 31st December. The estimated population of the District was 29,420 as compared with 31,160 for 1970. The live birth rate is 19.7 as compared with 19.9 for England and Wales. The infant mortality, i.e. deaths of infants under 1 year of age, totalled 14, which resulted in a rate of 24 per 1,000 total live births as compared with 18 for England and Wales. Whilst this is a marked increase on the previous rate for 1970 the majority of these death occurred within the first four weeks of independent existence and does not reflect the continuation of a low infant mortality rate for the Rural District to which one has become accustomed.

The incidence of infectious disease as notified has, again, been low and apart from measles there has been little to require much investigation by your Health Inspectors.

The far reaching changes, which are envisaged in the Local Government Bill now before Parliament, will have a profound effect on the boundaries of the Rural Districts as well as showing the way to a new health service, not only in the sphere of personal health, but in the environment itself. Under the Bill there will be radical changes in the provision of health care in its wide context to the community and by 1974 there will be no legal obligation to appoint a Medical Officer of Health. It is anticipated that the health functions will be provided to the District Councils by arrangement with the Area Health Boards who will employ Community Physicians.

The public health staff, as indicated in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report, continue to maintain at a high level the sanitary supervision of the area, but at the time of writing there is a shortage of Public Health Inspectors. This must be reflected on the standard the Rural District have been able to attain.

Once again I thank the members of the Council, the Clerk, Mr. L. McCowey and Mr. J.P. Lynch for their continued support in maintaining a satisfactory level of health throughout the district. It is by the continued efforts of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the Engineer that the Rural District are arriving at a point where all the villages will be provided with a high level of modern sanitation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID ANDREW McCRACKEN

Acting Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics 1971

Registrar General's estimate of population as at 30.6.71 - 29,420

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR
(As supplied by the General Register Office)

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	288	269	557
Illegitimate	10	13	23
Total	298	282	580

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	19.7
Corrected birth rate (Comp. factor 1.01)	19.9
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	16.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4

STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	3	4	7

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	12
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths (England and Wales)	12

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	291	273	564
Illegitimate	10	13	23
Total	301	286	587

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DEATHS	Male	Female	Total
Deaths recorded during 1971	134	93	227
Death rate per 1,000 population			7.7
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor 1.56)			12.0
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			11.6

INFANT MORTALITY - Death of infants under one year of age	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	9	5	14

INFANT MORTALITY RATES	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	24
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births (England & Wales)	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	25
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE	
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	16

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE	
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	16

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE	
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	27

MATERNAL MORTALITY	
Number of deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	---

The following table gives the causes and the number of deaths that occurred during 1971:-

	Male	Female
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Leukaemia	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms	2	8
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	1
Diabetes mellitus	-	3
Other diseases of nervous system	3	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	1
Hypertensive disease	4	-
Ischaemic heart disease	37	17
Other forms of heart disease	11	10
Cerebrovascular disease	16	22
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	2
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	7	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Peptic ulcer	3	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1
Congenital anomalies	3	-
Carried Forward	121	88

	Male	Female
Brought Forward	121	88
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	5	3
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-
All other accidents	2	-
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	1
Totals	134	93
Totals for 1970	116	94

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) LABORATORY SERVICES. The Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, provides an excellent bacteriological service and most readily discusses and advises on any epidemiological or similar problem. Dr. S. Greenburgh, Public Analyst, Tenison Road, Cambridge, gives a similar, efficient, helpful service when chemical analyses are required.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. These services since July, 1953, have been provided directly by the County Council under the direction of Dr. D.A. McCracken, The County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The West Suffolk County Council District Nurse-Midwives carry out these duties.

(d) HOSPITALS. Of the 580 live births in 1971 to Mildenhall residents 176 took place at the Newmarket General Hospital.

Of the 227 deaths, 99 occurred outside the District (92 in hospitals).

(e) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. The West Suffolk County Council hold Infant Welfare Clinics at the following centres in the Mildenhall District.

Beck Row	Village Hall	2nd and 4th Wednesday
Brandon	Church Institute	2nd and 4th Tuesday
Lakenheath	Peace Memorial Hall	4th Thursday
Mildenhall	Bunbury Rooms	Every Friday

A new health clinic and ambulance station are in the process of being built on the Great Heath, Mildenhall. They are expected to be fully operational about June 1972.

Outpatients clinics are held at Newmarket General Hospital as shown overleaf.

NEWMARKET GENERAL HOSPITAL

CLINIC	SPECIALIST	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Anti-Coagulant	Dr. J.H. Dean	Mon Fri	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	O.P.D. O.P.D.
Appliances	(Technician)	Mon	10.30 am	O.P.D. Alt. Weeks
Cardiac	Dr. H.A. Fleming Dr. D.W. Evans	Mon Mon	9.45 am 9.45 am	O.P.D. 3rd Bi-mthly O.P.D. 4th Bi-mthly
Chest	Dr. L.C. Lum	Thur	2.00 pm	O.P.D.
Dental (Oral)	Mr. E.W.B. Varley	Weds	2.00 pm	O.P.D.
Dermatology	Dr. S.O.B. Roberts	Tues	9.45 am	O.P.D.
E.N.T.	Mr. K.F. Wilsdon	Mon	2.00 pm	O.P.D.
Geriatric	Dr. N.K. Coni	Thur	10.00 am	O.P.D.
Gynaecological and Obstetric	Mr. J.S. Hesketh (Registrar) (Registrar) Mr. O. Lloyd	Fri Tues Tues Thur Mon	9.30 am 10.00 am 2.00 pm 10.00 am 2.00 pm	O.P.D. (Gynae) A.2 (Obs.) A.2 (Obs.) G.P. Unit A.2 (Obs.) O.P.D. Alt. Weeks
Medical	Dr. R. Arden Jones Dr. I.E. Evans Dr. K.M. Mackenzie	Tues Wed Thur Thur	2.00 pm 2.00 pm 2.00 pm 2.00 pm	O.P.D. O.P.D. O.P.D. O.P.D. Alt. Weeks
Neurology	Dr. M. Yealland	Thur	10.00 am	O.P.D.
Opthalmic	Mr. J. Monckton (Glaucoma cases only)	Tues Fri Mon	2.00 pm 10.00 am 10.00 am	O.P.D. O.P.D. O.P.D. 3rd Monthly
Orthopaedic	Mr. E.S. Jamieson (Children) (Physio. cases only) Mr. R. Mangnall	Mon Fri Sat Tues Thur Weds Weds	10.30 am 2.00 pm 10.15 am 2.00 pm 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	O.P.D. O.P.D. O.P.D. Alt. Weeks Plaster Room Physio. (Not 4th) O.P.D. (2nd Mthly) Physio. (4th Mnthly)
Paediatrics	Dr. D. Gairdner	Weds	9.30 am	O.P.D. (1st & 3rd Monthly)
Physl. Medicine	Dr. W.A. Fell	Weds	9.30 am	O.P.D.
Surgical	Mr. R.E.B. Tagart Mr. T.M. Williams	Tues Fri Thur	9.15 am 10.30 am 10.00 am	O.P.D. O.P.D. O.P.D.
Thoracic Surgery	Mr. B.B. Milstein Mr. C. Parish	Mon Mon	10.00 am 10.00 am	O.P.D. (2nd Mthly) O.P.D. (4th Mthly)

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of infectious and other diseases notified during the year:-

	Male	Female
Measles	5	6
Whooping Cough	2	1
	7	7

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality

NEW CASES

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Pulmonary	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	2
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-

Ages of Cases notified during 1971

Non-Pulmonary - 1 female, 33 years

Mortality - There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
1. Cases at commencement 1971	5	3	2	-	10
2. First notified during 1971	-	-	-	1	1
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
5. Cases removed from Register	-	-	-	-	-
6. Remaining at 31.12.71	5	3	2	1	11

R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

L. McCowey, M.A.P.H.I.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Summary of visits carried out by Public Health Inspectors during 1971.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act	14
Caravan Sites	149
Clean Air Act	19
Drainage and Sewerage	48
Factories Act	75
Food Hygiene:-	
Bakehouses	6
Butchers Shops	18
Catering Premises	60
Chemists Shops	1
Confectioners	9
Dairies	1
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shops	12
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	4
Grocers and General Dealers	61
Licensed Premises	99
Registered Food Premises	34
School Kitchens	1
Delivery Vehicles	2
Market Stalls	1
Mobile Shops	2
Food Inspection	35
Housing Acts	530
Improvement Grants	182
Infectious Diseases	7
Knackers Yards	20
Miscellaneous Visits	201
Noise Abatement Act	8
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:-	
General Inspections	98
Revisits	36
Offices	37
Shops	75
Catering Establishments, Canteens	23
Wholesale Depots, Warehouses	1
Fuel Storage Depots	1
Outworkers	Nil
Pet Shops	6
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	96
Public Conveniences	8
Public Health Acts	436
Stables and Piggeries	2
Verminous Premises	8
Water Supply	105

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HOUSING

Steady progress in dealing with unfit houses was maintained throughout the year. A greater number of unfit properties were dealt with by means of Closing Orders when compared with 1970.

Individual Unfit Houses - Housing Act 1957

Houses Closed - Sections 16 and 17	23
Houses Demolished - Section 17	25
Number of Demolition Orders made	25

Unfit Houses made Fit

After informal action by the Local Authority	1
After formal notice made under the Public Health Acts	Nil
After formal notice under the Housing Acts	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By the Owner	5

Other Houses in which Defects were Remedied

Informal action by Local Authority	10
Formal action - Housing Acts	Nil
Formal action - Public Health Acts	Nil

NEW DWELLINGS ERECTED

A total of 350 houses were erected during the year. Of these, 207 were erected by the Council and 323 by private enterprise.

The following table shows the distribution of newly erected houses throughout the District for 1971 and the previous two years.

Parish	Private			Council		
	1971	1970	1969	1971	1970	1969
Barton Mills	Nil	12	7	6	Nil	Nil
Brandon	72	54	54	151	41	15
Cavenham	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dalham	Nil	1	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Elveden	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Eriswell	63	2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Freckenham	1	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Gazeley	Nil	1	6	Nil	10	Nil
Herringswell	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Higham	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Icklingham	Nil	Nil	2	10	4	4
Kentford	1	18	9	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lakenheath	104	77	78	18	4	10
Mildenhall	71	47	63	22	157	104
Moulton	9	2	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
Santon Downham	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuddenham	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Wangford	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Worlington	2	Nil	10	Nil	Nil	Nil

WATER SUPPLY

The major part of the piped water supplies throughout the District is undertaken by the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board. Details of the supplies, which are adequate and wholesome, are set out below:-

Parish	Number of Dwellings	Public Water Mains		Private Supply	
		Inside Dwelling	Standpipe	Inside Dwelling	Pump Outside
Barton Mills	288	280	4	4	-
Brandon	1917	1878	15	21 (3)	-
Cavenham	47	35	-	9 (6)	3
Dalham	82	82	-	-	-
Elveden	137	-	-	135 (135)	2
Eriswell	167	152	-	15	-
Freckenham	278	274	-	3	1
Gazeley	196	175	6	15	-
Herringswell	68	61	1	6	-
Higham	76	-	-	76 (76)	-
Icklingham	159	141	4	14	-
Kentford	108	102	6	-	-
Lakenheath	1037	1017	12	5	3
Mildenhall	2750	2725	10	6	9
Moulton	350	350	-	-	-
Santon Downham	91	-	-	91	-
Tuddenham	123	112	3	8	-
Wangford	11	-	-	11	-
Worlington	164	156	3	5	-
	8049	7540	64	424 (220)	21

The figures in brackets indicate the number of dwellings having a chlorinated private water supply.

Of the 424 dwellings having a private water supply inside, 3 of these obtain their water by means of a hand pump.

House Improvements and Repairs

Throughout the year the department continued to publicise the availability of grants towards the cost of house improvements and repairs. Personal visits were made to advise owners on schemes which would attract a Standard or Discretionary Grant and explanatory booklets were sent to every person whom it was thought may be interested.

The following table sets out the number of grants paid during the last three years and as the figures indicate, the response has been poor to say the least.

	1971	1970	1969
Discretionary Grants	14	11	7
Standard Grants	27	17	18

Application for Qualification Certificates Rent of Dwellings in Good Repair and Provided with Standard Amenities

I reported briefly last year on the introduction of a new system governing the rents of privately rented dwellings which have been brought up to a satisfactory standard. The purpose, as in the case of increased grants, is to encourage improvement and repairs to older houses whilst ensuring a fair rent to landlords in return for capital expended.

The scheme, which can be linked to improvement grant applications, has been in operation since August 1969 but, as the following table indicates, it has not, during its second full year of operation, met with the success in Mildenhall that one would like to see.

The number of applications dealt with during the year is set out below:-

1. Where the dwelling does not have all the standard amenities

	1971	1970
Number of applications received	5	Nil
Number of applications granted	2	Nil
Number of certificates of provisional approval issued	3	Nil
Number of applications refused	Nil	Nil

2. Where the dwelling does have all the standard amenities

	1971	1970
Number of applications received	1	11
Number of applications granted	1	2
Number of applications refused	Nil	9

EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Bacteriological Examination

The programme, initiated in 1970, to examine all private, untreated water supplies within the rural district was continued during 1971.

The number of samples taken and the results obtained are set out below:-

No. Samples	Class 1 Highly Satisfactory	Class 2 Satisfactory	Class 3 Suspicious	Class 4 Unsatisfactory
54	35	3	3	13

Samples of untreated water from 8 private supplies found to be unsatisfactory were promptly investigated and immediate precautionary measures adopted. Unsatisfactory water supplies were dealt with as follows:-

(a) In two cases, arrangements to disconnect private supplies and connect to public mains were completed.

(b) Two houses were closed and the use of the private supply for domestic purposes discontinued.

(c) In the four remaining cases, the source of contamination was rectified.

Action to remedy a further unsatisfactory private supply, located in 1970, was completed during 1971 - the property having been connected to public mains.

Samples taken from public supplies all proved excellent. Monthly samples from all boreholes providing water for public supplies continues to be undertaken, prior to chlorination, by the Water Board.

Chemical Examination (Analysis)

Every year samples of water are taken by the Water Board from each source within the Rural District and submitted to chemical analysis.

The analyst states that the water in each sample conforms to the highest organic purity and the results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes, from the aspect of the chemical and mineral analysis.

Typical results of a samples are shown overleaf:-

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES 1971

Test (Parts per million)	Brandon Boreholes		Eriswell Boreholes		Moulton	Tuddenham
	No. 1	No. 2	No. 1	No. 2		
Appearance	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
pH Values	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.4
Chloride	11	14	16	18	25	17
Total Hardness	190	170	190	200	340	235
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.8	2.1	3.9	5.3	8.2	3.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Metals:-						
Iron	0.04	0.03	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Zinc	Absent	Absent	0.06	0.03	0.06	Absent
Copper	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Lead	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Manganese	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	0.1	0.15	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.15
Turbidity	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	11	10	11	14	35	17
Oxygen Absorbed	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.15
Residual Chlorine	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Silica	10	12	12	12	16	11
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	230	215	235	250	425	290

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The Council continued their programme of providing modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems and the following progress was made during the year.

Brandon Sewerage Scheme

Construction work on this scheme commenced in March 1971. Satisfactory progress was reported throughout the contract and work was completed in October 1971.

Extension to Brandon Sewage Treatment Works

This scheme was approved by the Department of the Environment during the year and tenders were invited from a selected list of contractors. Work commenced in October 1971 and completion is anticipated before the end of March 1973.

Red Lodge, Herringswell and Cavenham Sewerage Scheme

Satisfactory progress was reported during the early part of the year and the sewerage scheme for all three areas was completed in October 1971.

Extensions to Mildenhall Sewage Treatment Works

Concern was expressed by the Council during the year at the delay in completing this contract but workmanship continued to be reported as good.

The works were eventually commissioned on 14th April 1971 and were officially opened on 26th October 1971.

Outstanding works not affecting operation of the plant were completed by the end of the year.

Beck Row and Holywell Row Sewerage Scheme

Following approval by the Department of the Environment tenders were invited from a selected list of contractors.

Work on the contract commenced in July 1971, progress is reported as satisfactory and it is anticipated that the scheme will be completed towards the end of 1972.

Kentford and Kennett Sewerage Scheme

During the year work on the preparation of this scheme by the consulting engineers did not progress as well as the Council hoped and at the end of the year negotiations for land purchase and preparation of documents to the Department of the Environment were still in progress.

Elveden Sewerage Scheme

An outline scheme is to be submitted to the Council for approval early in 1972 before being submitted to the Department of the Environment.

NOTE

The schemes at Red Lodge, Herringswell, Cavenham, Beck Row and Holywell Row were designed by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor's Department. The remainder were designed by the Council's consulting engineers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection Service

The Council's policy of steady improvement in the service was continued and a further three parishes have been added to the list of areas receiving a weekly collection.

Brandon	Freckenham (Red Lodge)
Lakenheath	Worlington
Mildenhall (Town)	*Kentford
Mildenhall (Beck Row)	*Moulton
Barton Mills	*Mildenhall (Holywell Row)

*weekly collection commenced in 1971

The following areas remain on a fortnightly collection service:-

Cavenham	Higham
Dalham	Icklingham
Elveden	Lakenheath Fen
Eriswell	Mildenhall (West Row)
Freckenham (Village)	Santon Downham
Gazeley	Tuddenham
Herringswell	Wangford

Although the list of parishes receiving a fortnightly collection appears large it should be borne in mind that it represents less than 20% of the population (excluding U.S.A.F. personnel living on the bases).

It is proposed by the Council to attempt, during 1972, to achieve a weekly collection in all parts of the district, excepting the fen areas which would not be practicable.

The collection of household refuse by the paper sack system is now established on the Brandon Town Development Estate and the Anglo-American Housing Estate at Eriswell. It is proposed to introduce the system on the Town Development Estate in Mildenhall, these dwellings being suitable for the operation of paper sack refuse collection. In addition, the developers of new housing estates in the area are being requested to make allowance in their design for refuse collection by this method and all new Council property is being designed accordingly.

Refuse Disposal

The Council is currently making use of four disposal areas at Barton Mills, Lakenheath, Dalham and, during the winter months only, Herringswell.

The tips are used freely by the general public and this does sometimes lead to difficulties in operating even a semi-controlled system.

The new tip at Chalk Hill, Barton Mills, came into use in 1971 and is operated strictly on a controlled system. This tip is expected to have a life of at least 10 years and is a big step forward in achieving refuse disposal throughout the district in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Party on Refuse Disposal, the report of which was published in 1971.

All tips throughout the district are kept under surveillance to keep rat infestations under control and regular spraying with insecticide is carried out at least twice weekly to prevent flies breeding.

Whilst the provision of sewerage schemes in the less populated areas continues steadily, the septic tank emptying service is still most necessary and continues to operate on a full time basis. As more villages are provided with their own sewerage systems the need for this service will diminish. The number of tanks emptied during the year is shown below.

Number of tanks emptied		Total number of loads	
1971	1970	1971	1970
2091	2035	3150	2788

The increased figure for the number of tanks emptied is due to the fact that when main sewerage schemes are completed the Council offer an additional free emptying to all owners who connect their properties to the sewer. It therefore follows that during a year when a major sewerage scheme is completed, as was the case this year, there are a number of extra cesspools emptied for the final clearance which normally may have only had the one free clearance per year.

The extra number of loads taken in 1971 were almost exclusively from the Beck Row Area where there has been a marked decrease in the efficiency of the septic tank installations. In some cases these now have to be emptied once a week. The completion of the sewerage scheme for this area should alleviate the situation.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND ADMINISTRATION OF FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Summary of Food Premises

Bakehouses	3
Butchers	16
Catering Premises	32
Chemists Shops	2
Confectioners	11
Dairies	3
Fishmongers	3
Fried Fish Shops	5
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	8
Grocers and General Dealers	50
Licensed Premises	63
Mobile Food Shops	4
Registered Food Premises	61
School Kitchens	8
Total	269

Registered Food Premises

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	56
Storage of Ice Cream intended for Sale	-
Preparation of Sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	5
Total	61

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 and 1971

On 1st March 1971 the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 were superseded by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970, amending and consolidating previous legislation.

Three hundred and thirteen visits were made to food premises during the year to continue the pattern of inspections carried out during 1969 and 1970. As a result 39 informal notices were served for a variety of infringements, several being noted in most cases. The analysis below shows that cleanliness and repair of the structure of the food premises is still the item warranting more attention by the proprietors of food businesses.

Analysis of contraventions:-

Subject	Number of Contraventions
Food business not to be carried on from insanitary premises	1
Cleanliness of equipment	18
Food to be protected from risk of contamination	1
Personal cleanliness	1
Sanitary conveniences	29
Water supply	1
Wash-hand basins to be provided	27
First-aid materials to be provided	18
Accommodation for clothing	1
Facilities for washing food and equipment	7
Lighting of food rooms	1
Cleanliness and repair, etc., of food rooms	75
Accumulation of refuse	2

Premises revisited as a result of previous informal action showed good progress and indicated the fast growing awareness for good hygiene by proprietors and food handlers. The department encourages the owners of existing and proposed food premises to seek advice from the Public Health Inspectors on any problems they may have concerning the hygienic operation of their business. As a result many visits were made to discuss such problems and mutually satisfactory solutions were achieved.

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966

The food stalls at Mildenhall and Brandon Markets and Mobile Shops operating in the area were kept under surveillance during the year.

As a result of the informal notices served on several stall operators in 1970 the general standard of market food stalls has improved.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

There were 117 premises registered with the authority under the Act at the end of 1971, this being a decrease of 11 on the 1970 total.

The types of premises and the number of persons employed are shown in the table below:-

Type of Premises	No. on Register	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	35	133
Retail Shops	69	254
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	2
Catering Establishments open to Public	12	51
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-
Total	117	440
	Males	184
	Females	256

ACCIDENTS

No accidents were reported during the year.

EXEMPTIONS

There are no premises within the area for which exemption from any requirements of the Act have been granted.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The systematic inspection of all factories within the District, commenced in 1969, was continued and finalised during 1971.

Details relating to visits and the action taken are shown below.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health:-

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (no power) in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	10	7	Nil	Nil
Factories (with power) not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	117	68	8	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	14	14	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	141	89	8	Nil

ADMINISTRATION

One hundred and thirty four visits were made during the year, completing the inspections of all premises within the district which are registered under the Act.

Forty four informal notices were served as a result of the inspections and, as can be seen in the analysis below, the failure to provide information about the Act for employees and unsatisfactory sanitary facilities were the most common infringements.

Premises revisited as a result of informal action showed that remedial measures to comply with the requirements of the Act were, in most cases, completed or in hand.

Section	Subject	Number of Contraventions
4	Cleanliness	4
6	Temperature	12
8	Lighting	4
9	Sanitary Conveniences	16
10	Washing Facilities	1
16	Floors, Passages and Stairs	11
24	First Aid Provisions	20
50	Information for Employees	37

PROSECUTIONS

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings for enforcement of the provisions of the Act during 1971.

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions Instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences Section 7					
(a) insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) unsuitable or defective	8	19	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act	1	3	1	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Section 133	Lamp Shades	Wearing Apparel	Eye Shades	Bags
(i) Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (i) (c)	17	30	14	16
(ii) Number of cases in default in sending lists to the Council	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Section 134				
(i) Number of instances of work in wholesome premises	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Notices served	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Prosecutions	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

RODENT CONTROL

COMPLAINTS

Two hundred and forty six complaints were received during the year concerning infestations of rats and/or mice, this being an increase of 50% on the figures for 1970. The most noticeable increase was observed in the number of complaints of mice infestations which rose from 14 to 71. This situation has been discussed with the local infestation branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and we have been informed that other Local Authorities have had a similar increase in the number of complaints of mice. The opinion expressed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for this area is that as mice have now become quite resistant to Warfarin the general public are unable to satisfactorily treat infestations themselves and are calling upon the services of the Local Authority to secure efficient eradication.

The efficiency of the rodent service in the treatment of mice infestations was examined during the early months of 1971 and it was found that the effectiveness of Warfarin had diminished. An alternative poison was used on a trial basis which subsequently proved to be satisfactory and has remained in use.

SERVICE

The Council operates its own rodent control service, employing one full time operator. The charges for treatment of business and agricultural premises remain unchanged, that of 50p per hour and 65p per hour respectively.

The table below shows the work carried out by the rodent operator and the public health inspectors during the year.

		Non Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in District		9281	708
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification		1089	25
Number infested by:	Rats	310	18
	Mice	115	3
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification		508	52
Number infested by:	Rats	134	24
	Mice	26	8

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

One informal notice was served under the Act on the occupier of a domestic premises which was in such condition as to afford harbourage to rodents. The notice was speedily complied with.

Annual Sewer Examinations

During 1971 the pattern of annual examination of sewers for rodent activity was continued and details of the survey are set out below.

	No. of manholes in system	No. of manholes baited	No. of positive results
Lakenheath	238	32	Nil
Gazeley	33	6	Nil
Dalham	34	4	Nil

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1963

The summary below shows the position regarding site licences for the period covered by this report.

New site licences granted	3
Site licences renewed	17
Expired site licences not renewed	16
Total number of licenced sites at 31.12.71	32
Total number of caravans permitted to occupy licenced sites at 31.12.71	418

Seventeen of the thirty two licenced sites are for single caravans.

During the year it was found necessary to serve six informal notices for non-compliance with site licence conditions.

Caravan Sites Act 1968

Unauthorised gypsy encampments occurred throughout the summer months but, with the exception of the one at Red Lodge, serious problems did not arise and the encampments were short lived. After consultations and site meetings with the land owners and representatives of the Planning Department, West Suffolk County Council, the situation of Red Lodge was brought to a satisfactory conclusion and no further unauthorised use has occurred.

Negotiations between West Suffolk County Council and surrounding local authorities concerning the provision of permanent and transit sites for itinerants are still in progress.

GENERAL MATTERS OF INSPECTION

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

A further boarding kennel was set up during the year bringing the total of licenced establishments to three. In two cases the licence permits the boarding of 10 dogs and in the third, 50 dogs and 15 cats.

Each of the premises is of a good standard and meets the Council's requirements in full.

CLEAN AIR ACTS 1957 AND 1968

During the year two notifications of proposals to install a furnace to which Section 3(1) of the Act of 1956 applies and five applications for approval of chimney heights under the Clean Air Act 1968 were received and approved.

Nine complaints of alleged smoke nuisances were received during the year. Statutory action was not required and all complaints were resolved as a result of personal interviews with the parties involved.

DISINFESTATION

In addition to the rodent control service the following infestations were dealt with by Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

Ants	2	Fleas	5
Bats	5	Flies	3
Bees	3	Wasps	80
Bed Bugs	3	Other Insects	7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Two ingestion disease investigations were made during the year, one in the case of a person who had become infected with Shigella sonnei dysentery and the other being a contact of persons who had been infected with Salmonella enteritidis at a wedding reception in London. In both cases food poisoning symptoms had occurred and in the case of Salmonella enteritidis the organism was thought to have been transmitted by chicken.

During the year the outbreak of Cholera in Spain promoted the use of precautionary measures in this country and as a result, on advice from the County Medical Officer of Health, four persons arriving in the Rural District after visiting Spain and Portugal were interviewed concerning their state of health whilst abroad and since arrival in England. It was not found necessary to carry out surveillance other than the interview after arrival.

KNACKERS YARDS

The only knackers yard in the district, which was rebuilt to a design prepared and recommended by the Public Health Department, came into use in March 1970 and continues to operate efficiently. The internal structural design and finishes have secured a good standard of hygiene in the whole operation.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Five complaints of noise were received during the year, two arising from barking dogs, two from low flying aircraft at a nearby air base and one from an undetermined source.

The complaints of barking dogs were remedied informally through mutual co-operation and as the low flying aircraft coincided with practice for a one day flying display the need for further complaint did not arise. Further investigations are being made into the, as yet, undetermined source.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

One application for a licence to keep a pet shop was granted during the year. The applicant sells small pets such as budgerigars, tame mice, hampsters and rabbits and the licence was granted with appropriate conditions attached.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS 1936 AND 1961

Twenty seven informal notices under the above Acts were served during the year, eighteen in respect of disrepair, etc., in dwelling houses and nine relating to the unsatisfactory state of sanitary accommodation provided for customers in some of the public houses in the district.

Fifteen of the notices concerning the dwelling houses have been complied with, the remaining three being kept under surveillance until the necessary works are completed.

A survey of sanitary accommodation for customers in public houses is currently being carried out and those mentioned above will be dealt with when the survey is completed and the Council's policy, in relation to present standards, is decided.

It was found necessary to serve a statutory notice upon the occupier of a factory premises requiring the abatement of a nuisance arising from the emission of sawdust and wood shavings. The notice was duly complied with and new equipment was installed which would ensure that this nuisance would not recur.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT 1958

There are no slaughterhouses within the Rural District.

SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS

There are seven outdoor swimming pools in the district located at schools in Brandon, Elveden (transferred from Eriswell during the year), Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Moulton, Tuddenham and Gazeley (opened September 1971).

Regular testing of the water was continued during the year by the Weights and Measures Department of the West Suffolk County Council to ensure that adequate standards of purity are maintained and a policy of poolside testing followed by instruction on dosing was carried out.

In addition advice and information on the maintenance of pool hygiene standards was given by the County Health Education Officer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My thanks to colleagues for information and assistance given in the compilation of this report.